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Sep 6th 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I support broadband competition!

I am now a senior citizen and have had several Internet providers throughout the years, all of them insisting on bundling all services for better prices which then grew into outrageous monthly bills after the initial service period. At first (after dial-up), I had one provider for DSL Internet and another for cable TV, while I hung onto the copper for my phone. For years, I resisted bundling services and kept the copper wire to my house. Eventually, even the companies that owned the copper would not provide reasonably-priced Internet access while allowing me to keep the copper wire to the house. If you wanted TV, Internet, and phone, you had to bundle under one company. I eventually gave up the copper wire to my house. However, this did not keep my bills low or my Internet speed fast. I was paying over \$260/mo for basic phone, decent Internet speed, and cable TV that did not include ShowTime or HBO or any premium viewing. My pleas to the company to reduce my monthly billing resulted in slower Internet speeds, and I still had climbing monthly bills. I also learned that the same company lowered my son's monthly fees when he called and asked for reduction, but not mine. Was that because I was female and had been their customer for such a long time that they knew they had me? I was very frustrated with the Phone-Internet-TV situation and the rising bills.

I was very excited when a local company, Sonic, started to roll-out fiber-optic in San Francisco. I couldn't wait for them to get to my neighborhood so I could cut the cord! That was something that I didn't even understand at the time. I didn't understand streaming TV; I was way behind in my learning curve, despite the fact that I'm an educator. I didn't understand SmartTVs, Roku, Firestick, GoogleTV, AppleTV or any of the devices that would help me unlock the potential of streaming TV. I cancelled my phone and Internet service with my bundled provider, but kept the cable because I was "hooked" on the cable feed. My bill from that company dropped by \$10/month. So what was the company that I had used for so many years telling me? -- That I had been paying (with the reduced Internet speed) \$10/month for phone and Internet service and \$140/mo for cable TV? Yep, the unbundled price dropped my monthly bill, now only cable, by \$10/month. Thank God for the senior classes at my local library where there were many other people like myself, trying to figure out how to cut the cord so as to manage their monthly bills on their fixed incomes.

And thanks for talks with Sonic support and the Sonic employees I saw on the street and other people who had wised up to the cable TV scam a lot sooner than I.

Now that I've finally cut the cord, and gotten rid of the cable (although the cable is still hooked onto my house), I have the freedom to choose the TV programming that I want and I have the phone and the Internet speed that allows me the freedom to stream whatever I want. AND NOW YOU WANT TO TAKE THAT AWAY?

Local companies, like Sonic, are what bring innovation and choice to consumers. If the government is not in the game with the big companies to keep hiking up the prices, then you will NOT DEREGULATE and you will ENCOURAGE LOCAL COMPANIES by allowing them regulatory access to the lines that feed to our homes.

PLEASE PROTECT NET NEUTRALITY.

Janet FOWLER